

At page 43, in the line immediately after the heading "CLAIMS" please insert the following paragraph:

-- What is claimed is: --

At page 31, please delete the last paragraph on the page (*i.e.*, the paragraph after bibliography entry no. 12).

At page 32, please delete the paragraph at line 20 (*i.e.*, the paragraph situated between bibliography entries 20 and 22).

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 22, 30, 33, 34, 40-44, 46-63 to read as follows:

22. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in mammals, including humans, the composition comprising an anti-rheumatoid-arthritic amount of an isolated immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein designated BiP(GRP78), in combination with a pharmaceutically-suitable carrier.
30. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject in need thereof, including a human subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an anti-rheumatoid-arthritic amount of immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein designated BiP(GRP78).
33. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject in need thereof, including a human subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an anti-rheumatoid-arthritic amount of a recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID NO: 2.

34. **[AMENDED]** The method of Claim 33, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein is administered orally, nasally, subcutaneously, or intravenously.
40. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** A method for diagnosing the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject, including a human subject, the method comprising contacting a bodily fluid from the subject selected from the group consisting of whole blood, blood plasma, blood serum, saliva, mucus, synovial fluid, and cerebrospinal fluid, with immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein designated BiP(GRP78), and then ascertaining the presence or absence of anti-immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein antibodies in the bodily fluid tested, the presence of antibodies indicating the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in the subject.
41. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The method of Claim 40, wherein the bodily fluid is contacted with a recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein
42. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** A method for diagnosing the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject, including a human subject, the method comprising contacting a bodily fluid from the subject selected from the group consisting of whole blood, blood plasma, blood serum, saliva, mucus, synovial fluid, and cerebrospinal fluid, to an immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein, wherein the bodily fluid is contacted with an immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
43. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The method of Claim 42, wherein the presence of anti-immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein antibodies is ascertained using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) incorporating an immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.

44. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** A kit for diagnosing the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject, including a human subject, the kit comprising:
an amount of an isolated immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein designated BiP(GRP78), disposed in a suitable container.
46. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 44, comprising a recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.
47. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 44, comprising an immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
48. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 44, comprising an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay that incorporates the immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.
49. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 48, comprising a recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.
50. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 48, comprising a recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
51. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 44, comprising a Western Blot assay that incorporates the immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.
52. **[TWICE-AMENDED]** The kit of Claim 51, comprising a recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.